

Patent Claims

1. Tuning circuit for tuning a filter stage, which has an RC element (1) with an RC time constant (τ), with the RC time constant (τ) being the product of the resistance of a resistor (R1) in the RC element (1) and the capacitance of a capacitor (C1), which is connected in series with the resistor (R1), in the RC element (1), having:
- (a) a comparator (10) for comparison of the voltage which is produced at the potential node (4) between the resistor (R1) and the capacitor (C1), with a reference ground voltage; and having
- (b) a controller (15) which varies the charge on the capacitor (C1) in the RC element (1) until the comparator (10) indicates that the voltage which is produced at the potential node (4) is equal to the reference ground voltage,
- with the controller (15) switching a capacitor array (26) as a function of the charge variation time, which capacitor array (26) is connected in parallel with the capacitor (C1) in the RC element (1), in order to compensate for any discrepancy between the RC time constant (τ) of the RC element (1) and a nominal value.
2. Tuning circuit according to Claim 1, characterized in that the filter stage is contained in an integrated analog filter (3).
3. Tuning circuit according to Claim 1, characterized

in that the controller (15) has a sequence controller (14) for driving switches which are provided in order to vary the charge on the capacitor (C1) in the RC element (1).

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4. Tuning circuit according to Claim 3, characterized in that the switches are integrated in the analog filter (3).

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5. Tuning circuit according to Claim 4, characterized in that the switches are CMOS switches.

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6. Tuning circuit according to Claim 3, characterized in that the sequence controller (14) has a digital counter for measurement of the charge variation time.

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7. Tuning circuit according to Claim 6, characterized in that the digital counter for the sequence controller (14) is clocked by means of an external clock signal (CLK).

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8. Tuning circuit according to Claim 7, characterized in that the digital counter for the sequence controller (14) counts the number (Z) of clock cycles from the external clock signal between reception of a start signal and reception of a stop signal which is received from the comparator (10).

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9. Tuning circuit according to Claim 1, characterized

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in that the controller (15) has a memory (16) which is connected to the sequence controller (14).

10. Tuning circuit according to Claim 9,
5 characterized
in that a coded tuning control signal for switching the capacitor array (26) is stored in the memory (16) for each count (Z) of the digital counter.
- 10 11. Tuning circuit according to Claim 10, characterized
in that the capacitor array (26) has two or more tuning capacitors (28-i) which are connected in parallel with the capacitor (C1) in the RC element (1) as a function of the coded tuning control signal.
- 15 12. Tuning circuit according to Claim 11,
characterized
in that the capacitances of the tuning capacitors (28-i) are weighted multiples of a basic capacitance (C_{basic}).
- 20 13. Tuning circuit according to Claim 1,
characterized
in that the capacitor array (26) is integrated in the filter stage.
- 25 14. Tuning circuit according to Claim 3,
characterized
in that the integrated analog filter can be switched between a normal filter mode and a tuning mode by means
30 of switches which are controlled by the sequence controller (14).
15. Tuning circuit according to Claim 1,
characterized

in that the filter stage has a completely differential operational amplifier (29).

16. Tuning circuit according to Claim 15,
5 characterized
in that the completely differential operational amplifier (29) has a first signal input which is connected to a potential node (4) in a first RC element (1),
10 a second signal input which is connected to the potential node (5) in a second RC element (2),
a first signal output which is fed back via the capacitor (C1) in the first RC element (1) to the first signal input, and a second signal output which is fed
15 back via the capacitor (C2) in the second RC element (2) to the second signal input.

17. Tuning circuit according to Claim 16,
characterized
20 in that the capacitor (C1) in the first RC element (1) is charged by means of switches which are controlled by the sequence controller (14), and the capacitor (C2) in the second RC element (2) is discharged by means of switches which are controlled by the sequence controller
25 (14), until the voltages which are produced at the potential nodes (4, 5) in the two RC elements (1, 2) are of equal magnitude.

18. Tuning circuit according to Claim 17,
30 characterized
in that the comparator (10) has:
- a first signal input (8) which is connected to the potential node (4) in the first RC element (1),
- a second signal input (9) which is connected to the
35 potential node (5) in the second RC element (2), and

- an output (11) for emitting a stop signal to the sequence controller when the voltage which is applied to the first signal input (8) is equal to the voltage which is applied to the second signal input (9).

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19. Tuning circuit according to Claim 18, characterized

in that the counter which is contained in the sequence controller (14) records the time until the voltages
10 which are applied to the two signal inputs (8, 9) of the comparator (10) are of equal magnitude.

20. Tuning circuit according to Claim 1, characterized

15 in that the filter stage has an operational amplifier (33) whose first signal input is connected to the potential node (4) in the RC element (1) and whose signal output (36) is fed back via the capacitor (C1) in the RC element (1) to the first signal input
20 (8).

21. Tuning circuit according to Claim 20, characterized

in that the comparator (10) has:

25 - a first signal input (8), which is connected to the signal output (36) of the operational amplifier (33),
- a second input (9), to which the reference ground voltage is applied, and
- an output (11) for emitting a stop signal, to the
30 sequence controller, when the voltage which is applied to the first input is equal to the reference ground voltage.

22. Tuning circuit according to Claim 21,

35 characterized

in that the second input (9) of the comparator (10) can alternatively be connected by means of switches (44, 45) which are controlled by the sequence controller (14) to a first reference voltage source (31) which generates a first reference voltage, or to a second reference voltage source (32) which generates a second reference voltage.

23. Tuning circuit according to Claim 22,
characterized
in that the capacitor (C1) in the RC element (1) can alternatively be connected by means of switches (44, 45) which are controlled by the sequence controller (14) to the first reference voltage source (42) in order to charge the capacitor in a first direction, or to the second reference voltage source in order to charge the capacitor (C1) in the opposite direction to the first direction.

24. Tuning circuit according to Claim 22 or 23,
characterized
in that the capacitor (C1) has its charge varied by means of the switches which are controlled by the sequence controller (14), until the first reference voltage is applied to the first input (8) of the comparator (10), and the capacitor (C1) then has its charge varied in the opposite direction by means of the switches which are controlled by the sequence controller (14) until the second reference voltage is once again applied to the first input (8) of the comparator (10).

25. Tuning circuit according to Claim 24,
characterized
in that the counter which is contained in the sequence controller (14) records the overall time for the charge

variation and for the opposite charge variation of the capacitor (C1).

26. Tuning circuit according to Claim 2,
5 characterized
in that the analog filter is an anti-aliasing filter.

27. Tuning circuit according to Claim 26,
characterized
10 in that the analog filter is an xDSL anti-aliasing
filter.

28. Tuning circuit according to Claim 2,
characterized
15 in that the analog filter is a biquad filter.

29. Tuning circuit according to Claim 2,
characterized
in that the analog filter is completely differential.
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30. Tuning circuit according to Claim 3,
characterized
in that the analog filter has two or more filter stages.

25 31. Method for tuning a filter stage which contains an
RC element with an RC time constant,
with the RC time constant (τ) being the product of the
resistance of a resistor (R1) in the RC element (1) and
the capacitance of a capacitor (C1), which is connected
30 in series with the resistor (R1), in the RC element (1),
with the method having the following steps:

(a) variation of the charge on the capacitor (C1) by at
least one RC element (1) in the filter stage;

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(b) measurement of the charge variation time until the voltage which is produced at the potential node (4) between the resistor (R1) and the capacitor (C1) in the RC element (1) reaches a reference ground voltage;

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(c) switching a capacitor array (26), which is connected in parallel with the capacitor (C1) in the RC element (1), as a function of the measured charge variation time, in order to compensate for any discrepancy between the RC time constant (τ) of the RC element (1) and a predetermined nominal value (τ_{NOM}).

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32. Method according to Claim 31.
characterized

15 in that the capacitor (C1) in the RC element (1) is charged to a specific first reference ground voltage before the tuning of the filter stage.

33. Method according to Claim 32,
20 characterized

in that, in order to tune the filter stage, the charge on the capacitor (C1) is varied until the voltage which is dropped across the capacitor (C1) is equal to a second reference ground voltage, and it is then charged
25 in the opposite direction until the voltage which is dropped across the capacitor (C1) is once again equal to the first reference ground voltage.

34. Method according to Claim 33,
30 characterized

in that the two charge variation times for varying the charge on the capacitor (C1) are measured as an overall time.

35 35. Method according to Claim 33,

characterized

in that a capacitor (C1) in a first RC element (1) is
charged to a first reference ground voltage before the
tuning of the filter stage, and a capacitor (C2) in a
5 second RC element (2) is charged to a second reference
ground voltage before the tuning of the filter stage,
with the capacitor (C1) in the first RC element (1)
being discharged, and the capacitor (C2) in the second
RC element (2) being charged, until the voltage across
10 the two capacitors (C1, C2) is of equal magnitude.

36. Method according to Claim 37,
characterized

in that the charge variation time until the two voltages
15 across the two capacitors (C1, C2) are of equal
magnitude is measured.

List of reference symbols

	1	RC element
	2	RC element
5	3	Filter
	4	Potential node
	5	Potential node
	6	Line
	7	Line
10	8	Comparator input
	9	Comparator input
	10	Comparator
	11	Comparator output
	12	Control line
15	13	Input
	14	Sequence controller
	15	Controller
	16	Memory unit
	17	Control input
20	18	Clock signal input
	20	Control output
	21	Control output
	22	Switch
	23	Switch
25	24	Switch
	25	Switch
	26	Capacitor array
	27	Control lines
	28	Tuning capacitors
30	29	Operational amplifier
	30	Operational amplifier
	31	Reference voltage source
	32	Reference voltage source
	33	Operational amplifier
35	34	Signal input

	35	Signal input
	36	Signal output
	37	Line
	38	Switch
5	39	Integrator
	40	Switch
	41	Switch
	42	Reference voltage source
	43	Reference voltage source
10	44	Switch
	45	Switch